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LETTER DATED 13 OCTOBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request that you convene an urgent meeting of the Security Council in order to consider the premeditated aggression perpetrated against the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

For several weeks, the city of Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has been subjected to sporadic mortar fire from the city of Brazzaville, the capital of the Republic of the Congo.

In recent days these attacks have intensified:

(a) On 29 and 30 September 1997, the shells which hit Kinshasa caused substantial material damage and the deaths of 31 innocent victims. They also seriously injured a large number of peaceful citizens, most of whom will be disabled for life;

(b) On 8 October 1997, a shell fell on the building housing the office of the President of the Republic, killing three people and seriously injuring many others;

(c) On 10 October 1997, a shell fell in close proximity to the Intercontinental Hotel, in the very heart of Kinshasa, wounding several people.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo wishes to express its deep outrage at this intolerable provocation and these gratuitous and barbarous criminal acts. It considers that the current crisis is totally unacceptable for the Congolese peoples of both Brazzaville and Kinshasa.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo wishes to state firmly that it will not shrink from any sacrifice in order to ensure its population peace, tranquillity and security.

In order to prevent any escalation of the situation between the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, my Government invites the Security Council to assume fully its responsibilities with a view to halting this incipient crisis and restoring harmony in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) André M. KAPANGA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative